

REMARKS

1. In response to the Office Action mailed July 16, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-32 were last presented for examination. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-10, 13-26 and 29-32 were rejected and claims 11, 12, 27 and 28 were objected to. By the foregoing Amendments, claims 1, 8, 12, 14, 18, 24 and 28 have been amended. Claims 4, 7, 11, 22-23, 27, 31 and 32 have been cancelled and no claims have been added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 12-21, 24-26 and 28-30 will be pending in this application. Of these twenty-four (24) claims, two (2) claims (claims 1 and 24) are independent.

2. Based upon the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all outstanding rejections be reconsidered and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Applicants would like to thank Examiner Le for the early indication of allowable subject matter in claims 11, 12, 27 and 28. In particular, claims 11, 12, 27 and 28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To that end, claims 4, 7 and 11 have been canceled and the limitations of these claims have been incorporated in independent claim 1; and claim 27 has been canceled and the limitations of claim 27 have been incorporated in independent claim 24. Thus, claim 1 and claim 24 and claims dependent thereon are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

4. Claims 1-9, 13, 15-17, 22, 24-26, 29 and 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,546,507 (Coyle et al.); claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coyle et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,119,021 (Taraci et al.); claims 18 - 21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coyle et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0130969 (Hawkins et al.); and claims 11, 12, 27 and 28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

35 U.S.C. Section 102 Rejections

5. Claims 1-9, 13, 15-17, 22, 24-26, 29 and 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Coyle et al. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

6. Claims 22, 27, 31 and 32 have been canceled by way of the present amendment. In addition, as discussed above, claims 4, 7 and 11 have been canceled and the limitations of these claims have been incorporated in independent claim 1; and claim 27 has been canceled and the limitations of claim 27 have been incorporated in independent claim 24. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Coyle et al. does not disclose, anticipate or inherently teach the claimed invention and that independent claims 1 and 24, and claims dependent thereon patentably distinguish thereover and are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. Section 103 Rejections

7. Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coyle et al. in view of Taraci et al. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

8. Claim 14 has been amended by way of the present amendment. In particular, claim 14 has been amended to depend upon claim 1 which, as discussed above, is in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that neither Coyle et al. nor Taraci et al., whether taken alone or in combination, do not disclose, suggest or make obvious the claimed invention and that claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

9. Claims 18 - 21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coyle et al. in view of Hawkins et al. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

10. Claim 18 has been amended and claims 22-23 have been canceled by way of the present amendment. In particular, claim 18 has been amended to depend upon claim 1 which, as discussed above, is in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that neither Coyle et al. nor Hawkins et al., whether taken alone or in combination, do not disclose, suggest or make obvious the claimed invention and that claim 18, and claims dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims

11. The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter, which makes them *a fortiori* independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections of the dependent claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

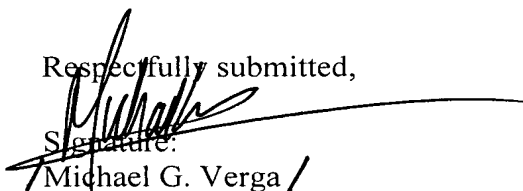
Conclusion

12. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

13. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims or other subject matter disclosed in this application in a continuation or divisional application, cancellations and amendments of above claims, therefore, are not to be construed as an admission regarding the patentability of any claims and Applicants reserve the right to pursue such claims in a continuation or divisional application.

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Respectfully submitted,


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